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Freedom Convoy 2022

Downtown Ottawa: mood was actually quite festive – not threatening to passersby

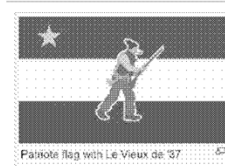
- Some Criminal acts did occur – law enforcement

Attendees at the demonstrations are not homogeneous in their beliefs or organization. They espoused a range of grievances broadly centered around their opposition to Public Health Restrictions Mandates. Speeches yesterday focused on:

- COVID is fake/is not serious
- My body my choice
- Canadian is becoming Communist nation
- Pseudo Law (I did not enter into a contract to follow any restrictions)
- COVID mandate part of global conspiracy

Numerous flags/posters focussing on the above-messaging.

- Most posters/flags not violent – clearly anti Trudeau/vaccines – some with more violent undertones
- A very small number of more inflammatory flags
 - o Confederate, Nazi, Swastika, III%, Punisher (based on a 1974 Marvel comic book hero), Quebec Patriote flag (see image at right).



A random flag is just a flag until the reason the person holding it explains why. Flags can have multiple meanings and are routinely co-opted by various groups/individuals. No way of connecting those viewed holding flags with any online content. The presence of the III% flag, for example, does NOT necessarily mean that members of the III% are in attendance.



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- Non-specific threats against Trudeau and government of Canada



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- “someone should kill the PM”
- “Would it be great if someone killed the PM”
- He is a traitor and should be tried for treason

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The anonymity of the online space allow individuals to post commentary that they would not normally say in public.

Many of posts in this space are best articulated as “shitposting”.

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Confirmation bias – strategic analysis must be driven by direct evidence collection and assessment as opposed to a reliance on social media postings lack context and where the poster’s bias may not be considered.

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